

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

The already highly consolidated major media organizations (especially Fox) have done an abysmal job of informing the American people in recent years. When Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" proves as informative as the best "news" broadcasts (and more informative than most), that should be taken as a grave warning sign. Media ownership rules do need to be changed – to *weaken* corporate media giants and prevent them from misleading the public to favor their own profits or politics.